

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 27, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary.

By this amendment, Claim 1 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 2-10 are currently pending in the application and subject to Examination. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 2-10 are allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilcox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,066). As Claim 1 has been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, the Applicants respectfully submit the rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

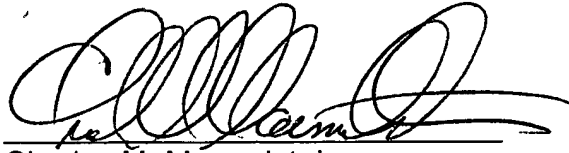
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of Claims 2-10, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing **Docket Number 103213-00079**.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles M. Marmelstein', written over a horizontal line.

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